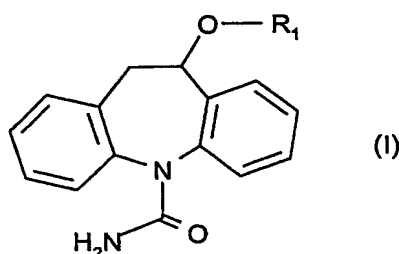


CLAIMS

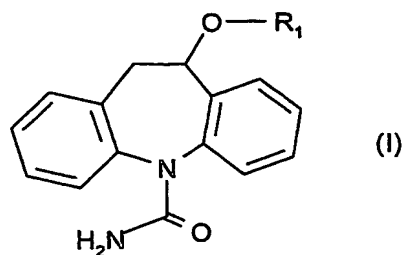
1. A method for the treatment of affective disorders in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I



wherein R₁ represents hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl carbonyl.

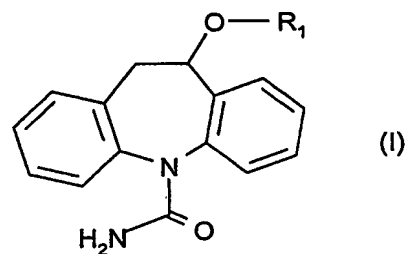
2. The method according to claim 1, which comprises administering to said subject every 20 to 28 hours an amount between about 500 and about 3000 mg of a compound of formula I, wherein R₁ represents hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl carbonyl.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein every 20 to 28 hours an amount between 750 and 2500 mg of a compound of formula I is administered.
4. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the disorder is selected from severe acute mania and manic episodes of bipolar I disorder.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein every 20 to 28 hours an amount between 1500 and 2500 mg of a compound of formula I is administered.
6. The method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the subject is a patient with a history of rapid cycling, with psychotic features, euphoric mania or dysphoric mania.
7. A method for the treatment of manic symptoms in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I

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wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl carbonyl.

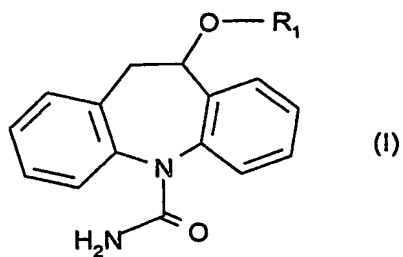
8. A method for the maintenance treatment of affective disorders in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said subject every a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl carbonyl.

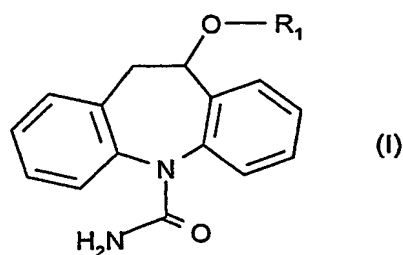
9. The method according to claim 8, which comprises administering every 20 to 28 hours to said subject an amount between about 600 and about 2500 mg of a compound of formula I, wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl carbonyl.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein every 20 to 28 hours an amount between 750 and 1250 mg of a compound of formula I is administered.
11. The method according to claim 2, 7, 8 or 9 wherein R_1 represents hydrogen.
12. The method according to claim 1, 2, 7, 8 or 9 wherein R_1 represents acetyl.
13. The use of a compound of formula I

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wherein R₁ represents hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl carbonyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the treatment of affective disorders.

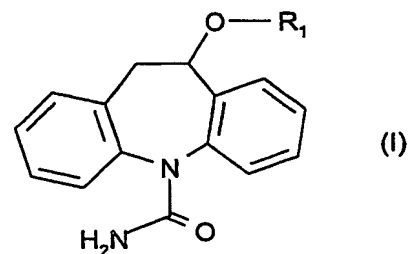
14. The use of a compound of I



wherein R₁ represents hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl carbonyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of affective disorders.

15. The use according to claim 13 wherein R₁ represents acetyl.

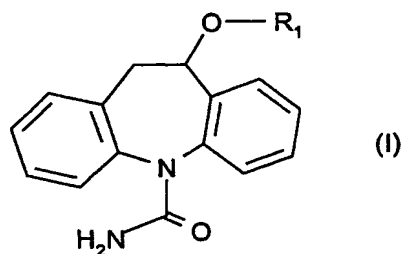
16. A pharmaceutical composition which incorporates as active agent a compound of formula I



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl carbonyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of affective disorders.

17. A combination comprising

(a) a compound of formula I



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl carbonyl, and

(b) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lithium, divalproex, conventional antipsychotics, atypical antipsychotics, lamotrigine and antidepressants, in which the active ingredients are present in each case in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The combination according to claim 17, comprising a compound of formula I, wherein R_1 is hydrogen, and olanzapine.

19. The combination according to claim 17, comprising a compound of formula I, wherein R_1 is hydrogen, and a compound selected from lithium or divalproex sodium.

20. Use of a combination according to any one of claims 17 to 19 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of affective disorders.

21. A commercial package comprising a combination according to any one of claims 17 to 19 together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of affective disorders.